

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (Original) An intravascular device, comprising:
a liner layer having a first liner section, the first liner section being made of expanded PTFE;
a reinforcing layer wound over the liner layer; and
a jacket positioned over the reinforcing layer and fused with the liner layer.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, wherein:
the liner has a second liner section, the second liner section being made of a material which is stiffer than the expanded PTFE of the first liner section.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein:
the second liner section is made of etched PTFE.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein:
the expanded PTFE has a porosity of 8-10 microns.

Claims 15-34 (canceled)

35. (Original) A method of forming an intravascular device, comprising the steps of:
providing a mandrel;
mounting a first liner on the mandrel;
winding a reinforcing layer over the first liner;
positioning a first jacket, a second jacket and a third jacket over the reinforcing layer, the second jacket being positioned between the first and third jackets, the first jacket having a

durometer which is at least 13D less than the third jacket, the second jacket having a durometer between the first and third jackets; and

fusing at least the first, second and third jackets to the liner to encase the reinforcing layer between the first liner and the first, second and third jackets.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with the first jacket having a durometer of at least 15 D less than the third jacket.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein:

the first and third jackets are separated by a longitudinal distance of 10 cm or less.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein:

the first and third jackets are separated by a longitudinal distance of 8 cm or less.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein:

the first and third jackets are separated by a longitudinal distance of 5 cm or less.

40. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with a fourth jacket which is positioned next to the third jacket, the first jacket having a durometer which is at least 25D less than the fourth jacket.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with the first jacket being separated from the fourth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 15 cm or less.

42. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein:

the positioning step is carried out with the first jacket being separated from the fourth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 10 cm or less.

43. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein:
the positioning step is carried out with a fifth jacket which is positioned next to the fourth jacket, the first jacket having a durometer which is at least 28D less than the fourth jacket.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein:
the positioning step is carried out with the first jacket being separated from the fifth jacket by a longitudinal distance 20 cm or less.

45. (Original) The method of claim 43 wherein:
the positioning step is carried out with the first jacket being separated from the fifth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 15 cm or less.

46. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein:
the positioning step is carried out with a sixth jacket which is positioned next to the fifth jacket, the first jacket having a durometer which is at least 40D less than the sixth jacket.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein:
the positioning step is carried out with the first jacket being separated from the sixth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 25 cm or less.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46 wherein:
the positioning step is carried out with the first jacket being separated from the fifth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 20 cm or less.

49. (Original) An intravascular device, comprising:
a shaft having a lumen extending therethrough;
a reinforcing layer embedded in the shaft; and
the shaft having a first jacket, a second jacket and a third jacket covering the at least one reinforcing element, the second jacket being positioned between the first and third jackets, the

first jacket having a durometer which is at least 13D less than the third jacket, the second jacket having a durometer between the first and third jackets.

50. (Original) The device of claim 49, wherein:
the first jacket has a durometer of at least 15 D less than the third jacket.

51. (Original) The device of claim 49, wherein:
the first and third jackets are separated by a longitudinal distance of 10 cm or less.

52. (Original) The device of claim 49, wherein:
the first and third jackets are separated by a longitudinal distance of 8 cm or less.

53. (Original) The device of claim 52, wherein:
the first and third jackets are separated by a longitudinal distance of 5 cm or less.

54. (Original) The device of claim 49, wherein:
the shaft has a fourth jacket which is positioned next to the third jacket, the first jacket having a durometer which is at least 25D less than the fourth jacket.

55. (Original) The device of claim 54, wherein:
the first jacket being separated from the fourth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 15 cm or less.

56. (Original) The device of claim 54 wherein:
the first jacket is separated from the fourth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 10 cm or less.

57. (Original) The device of claim 49, wherein:
the shaft has a fifth jacket which is positioned next to the fourth jacket, the first jacket having a durometer which is at least 28D less than the fourth jacket.

58. (Original) The device of claim 57, wherein:
the first jacket is separated from the fifth jacket by a longitudinal distance 20 cm or less.

59. (Original) The device of claim 57 wherein:
the first jacket is separated from the fifth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 15 cm or less.

60. (Original) The device of claim 49, wherein:
the shaft has a sixth jacket which is positioned next to the fifth jacket, the first jacket having a durometer which is at least 40D less than the sixth jacket.

61. (Original) The device of claim 60, wherein:
the first jacket is separated from the sixth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 25 cm or less.

62. (Original) The device of claim 60 wherein:
the first jacket is separated from the sixth jacket by a longitudinal distance of 20 cm or less.

63. (Original) The device of claim 49, wherein:
the reinforcing layer has a braided portion, the braided portion having a first section, a second section and a third section, the first section has a pic which is at least 15 more than the third section..

64. (Original) The device of claim 63, wherein:
the third section is separated from the first section by no more than 15 cm.

65. (Original) The device of claim 63, wherein:
the third section is separated from the first section by no more than 10 cm.

66. (Original) The device of claim 63, wherein:
the reinforcing layer has a fourth section, the first section has a pic which is at least 30
pics more than the fourth section, the first section being separated from the fourth section by no
more than 20 cm.

67. (Original) The device of claim 66, wherein:
the first section is separated by the fourth section by no more than 15 cm.

68. (Original) An intravascular device for accessing small, tortuous vessels,
comprising:
a shaft having at least four sections of varying stiffness, the shaft becoming more stiff
proximally; and
a lumen extending through the shaft.

Claims 69-86 (canceled)